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REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 5th November 1904.

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II.—Home Administration.

(*a*)—*Police.*

A complaint against a panchayet.

A correspondent of the *Howrah Hitaishi* [Howrah] of the 8th October makes the following allegation against Aghor Nath Nandi, the panchayet of the Bagnan Union in the district of Howrah. It appears that one Sanatan Midda of Khalore Ramchandrapur hitherto used to pay Re. 1 as his share of the chaukidari-tax. But the panchayet had made the amount due from him appear as Re. 1-4 in his books. When called on to pay at the increased rate, Sanatan pleaded that he had no knowledge that his tax had been increased, and refused to pay unless he were granted a receipt for the amount paid. The chaukidar who was making the collections could give no receipt as the receipt forms were with the gomasta, and so he had to return without any money. Meanwhile Sanatan had occasion to leave his house for a couple of days on business elsewhere. The panchayet's gomasta (Hiru Sarkar by name), taking advantage of this absence, carried off a bench from Sanatan's sitting-room. Sanatan on his return protested against this seizure of his goods without previous notice; but it was not until he had paid double his due that he could get back his bench.

Howrah Hitaishi, Oct. 8th, 1904.

A case of alleged coolie abduction.

2. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 31st October writes:—

We have received information from a trustworthy source that some coolies have been enticed from their homes in Darbhanga and are now under confinement in No. 22, Harinbaree Lane, thana Colootola, Calcutta. The coolies number about 20, and include three women and some boys. Most of them have been brought down here to be sent, against their will, to Rangoon. Two respectable Bengalis and a Musalman gentleman got scent of the affair and went to the house to make personal inquiries. They learned from the lips of some of the coolies that they were not permitted to appear on the street; and that because some of them had dared to do so on the preceding Saturday they had been soundly belaboured by the servants of the depôt. The depôt is said to be under the control of a European. They complained of ill-usage and of threatened forcible removal to Rangoon. While this information was being collected, some of the depôt servants appeared on the scene and forcibly dispersed the gentlemen who were making the inquiries. They resorted both to bad language and to blows for their purpose. They were aided in the work of dispersal by a police constable (No. 56H), who was summoned by them for the purpose. The facts of the case have been formally reported to the Colootola thana, and it is to be hoped that the authorities will see that due inquiry is made into this serious case.

Daily Hitavadi, Oct. 31st, 1904.

(*e*)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

Jute-steeping and malaria.

3. The *Howrah Hitaishi* [Howrah] of the 8th October calls attention to the unhealthiness caused by the practice of steeping jute indiscriminately in all village tanks and reservoirs of water, even in those specially reserved for domestic use. Certain villages named Ranmahal, Kumarpur, Nimabalia, Siyaldanga, etc., under thana Jagatballabhpur in Howrah are mentioned, where, owing to the excessive prevalence of this practice, malaria, enlargement of liver and spleen, and allied complaints have begun to appear. The interests of the public health require the interference of Government in this case.

Howrah Hitaishi, Oct. 8th, 1904.

The North Dum-Dum Municipality.

4. A correspondent of the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 28th October complains of the misuse of public money by the Chairman of the North Dum-Dum Municipality in the 24-Parganas. The Municipality has an annual income of about Rs. 5,000. There is a charitable dispensary in it, the annual cost of which is not less than Rs. 900. But the dispensary is so situated that, with the exception of the Chairman, his neighbours and a few other rate-payers, the local public reap no benefit from it. A few years ago Dr. R. L. Dutt, Mr. Collier, Magistrate, and Dr. Dobbie recorded in the inspection-book their opinion that it should be abolished. In spite of all this, the pay of the Doctor in charge of the dispensary has been increased, and a large sum of money has

Daily Hitavadi, Oct. 28th, 1904.

been spent in constructing quarters for his residence. The dispensary is close to the Chairman's house. The doctor and the compounder attached to it are consequently his protégés. As to the greater portion of the municipal area, Kadihati, Nimta and some o ther villages within the Municipality have become overgrown with jungle, so much so that recently an inhabitant of Kadihati was killed by a wild boar in broad daylight. The condition of the roads within the Municipality is simply deplorable. Metal has been laid on some of the principal roads. but the Municipality has not the necessary apparatus for beating it in. The tanks within the Municipality have become overgrown with duck-weed and latrines are sometimes left unserved for 10 or even 15 days at a stretch ; but the Chairman is ever ready with the excuse that there is a great scarcity of coolies and mehters. The Municipality has not as yet excavated even one tank for supplying wholesome drinking water to its rate-payers.

The editor says that the above complaint should be enquired into and that a strict inquiry into the working of the mufassal Municipalities would bring to light many cases of misuse of public money. It behoves the Government to compel the Municipalities to economise and apply their resources to such useful purposes as supply of drinking water, etc., and it is believed that if strict economy is practised, the question of water-supply will in many places admit of easy solution. Government should keep a sharp eye on such Municipal Chairmen as are indifferent to, or unfit for, the proper discharge of their honorary duties.

DAILY HITAVADI, Oct. 29th, 1904.

The Sumbhoo Nath Pandit Hospital, Bhowanipur, Calcutta.

5. Referring to the complaint about the management of the Sumbhoo Nath Pandit Hospital at Bhowanipur (noticed in paragraph 27 of the Report on Native Papers in Bengal for the week ending the 15th October 1904), the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 29th October writes:—

We are receiving many letters of complaint against Babu Debendra Nath Hazra, the Resident Surgeon. We have made inquiries into the matter, but have not been able to learn anything to the credit of the Doctor. We understand that Dr. Brown to whom the duty of making the enquiry has been entrusted, is supporting Dr. Hazra. Unless the inquiry is conducted in an impartial way, we shall be compelled to bring many more unpleasant truths to light. To the friends and supporters of Dr. Hazra our request is that they should set themselves to see that the inconveniences to the public complained of are promptly removed. By doing this they would spare both themselves and ourselves the disagreeable necessity of recurring to the subject.

DAILY HITAVADI, Nov. 1st, 1904.

Water-scarcity in Hooghly.

6. A correspondent of the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 1st November notices the prevalence of a scarcity in the supply of pure drinking water in the villages under the jurisdiction of the thanas of Haripal, Jangipara, Krishnanagar and Tarkessur in the district of Hooghly. It is suggested that to meet the difficulty, Government might arrange for a supply from the local Kana nadi at Selinabad.

(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.

DAILY HITAVADI, Oct. 29th, 1904.

A complaint against a booking-clerk.

7. A correspondent of the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 29th October makes the following allegation against the booking-clerk of Mullarpur station, East Indian Railway. On the 23rd October last, the correspondent and a female companion intended to travel by the train which leaves Ahmudpur for Sainthia at 12-46 P.M. He asked for two tickets from the booking-clerk, but the latter issued only one ticket. When pressed for a second one, he said that the female traveller might apply for her ticket herself ; that "it was very annoying to deal with such a foolish person as the correspondent and he would not issue another ticket to a man like him." Subsequently it was only through the help of a friend who bought the second ticket, that a way could be found out of the difficulty.

NIHAR, Nov. 1st, 1904.

A complaint against a toll-collector.

8. A correspondent of the *Nihar* [Contai] of the 1st November draws attention to the following case of neglect of duty by Babu Bijai Gobinda Singh, toll-collector of the Vaitgarh lock-gate on the Contai boat route. On the 24th October last, the correspondent on his way to Contai arrived at this

lock-gate in a boat in the evening. The gate was opened at 9 P.M. and the boat allowed to pass through into the canal. But here (along with several other boats) it was detained until its measurements could be taken and the necessary pass issued. The correspondent waited three hours, and then sent a man to remind the toll-collector that he was waiting. The messenger returned with the information that the toll-collector had gone to bed for that night, and the boats were to wait until the following morning for their passes. As the correspondent was to attend office the next day at 10 A.M. he could not afford to wait, and was therefore put to the expense of hiring a carriage for his conveyance to Contai.

(*h*)—*General.*

9. Referring to the recently published report on the working of the Indian Post Office for the last year, the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 1st November observes that the report in question makes it clear that the work of the Post Office is increasing in all its branches; and is likely to increase still further with the gradual spread of civilisation and education in the country. It is to be observed, however, that the expenditure incurred under the present system on the working of the Department is disproportionately heavy, considering the income. And one the chief causes of this state of things is the employment of Europeans on high salaries.

The Indian Post Office.

DAILY HITAVADI, Nov. 1st, 1904.

The paper advocates that preference should be given to equally qualified young Indians, many of whom are now available, and who would be content to work on much lower pay.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

10. A correspondent of the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 1st November reports apprehensions of distress in the Katwa subdivision of Burdwan. The crops in the earlier part of this season were plentiful, but the cessation of the rains since *Bhadra* last has damaged them severely, though about a fourth may possibly be saved by the help of irrigation from the tanks and rivers. This blow is all the more severe as it comes after successive failures of crops during the three previous years, which have left the cultivators heavily involved in debt.

Apprehended distress in Katwa in Burdwan.

DAILY HITAVADI, Nov. 1st, 1904.

URIYA PAPERS.

11. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 12th October states that a few showers of rain have removed all apprehensions as to scarcity from the minds of the public. The *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 13th October makes a similar statement.

The rainfall.

URIYA AND NAVASAMVAD. Oct. 12th, 1904.

SAMVAD VAHIKA, Oct. 13th, 1904.

12. The same paper thanks the Commissioner of the Chota Nagpur Division and the Raja of Gangpur and his Dewan for the keen interest they are taking in the movement set on foot in that State for the introduction of Uriya as its court language.

Uriya as the Court language in Gangpur.

URIYA AND NAVASAMVAD. Oct. 12th, 1904.

13. The *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 13th October approves of the proposal of the Raja of Puri, submitted to Government through the District Magistrate, to increase the pay of Babu Rajkisore Das, the Manager of the Puri temple, who has deserved promotion by his ability and sound judgment.

The salary of the Manager of the Puri temple.

SAMVAD VAHIKA. 13th October 1904.

14. Referring to the proceedings of the Railway Conference held recently at Simla, the same paper points out that though the question of the improvement of third-class carriages, from which the major portion of the railway income is drawn, is frequently discussed, very little has be n done up

The Railway Conference at Simla and the question of the improvement of third class carriages.

SAMVAD VAHIKA. Oct. 13th, 1904.

to date to better the condition of those carriages. Conferences are useless if they do not lead to practical good.

GARJATBASINI, Oct. 15th, 1904.

15. The *Garjatbasini* [Talcher] of the 15th October says that timely rain has removed all fears in connection with the paddy crop, which was in danger.

The prospect of the crops.

NARAYAN CHANDRA BHATTACHARYYA,
Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
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